Response of Banks to Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

1695. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment are aware of the fact that the banks have not been till now very enthusiastic about the project under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana; and

(b) if so, what time bound measures are being taken for all allocations and release of funds under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is being implemented throughout the country with effect from 1st April, 1994. The performance of banks as regards implementation of the Scheme, has shown progressive improvement. The details of the banks' performance during the last three years as furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are indicated below:

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Programme Year	Target	No.	Total loans sanctioned Amount	Total loans Disbursed No.	Amount
1993-94	42040	29601	18326.10	18859	11061.30
1994-95	239215	182718	102592.47	112761	59526.65
1995-96	321360	269725	1566,43.18	188072	101032.41

As per the present guidelines issued by RBI on priority sector advances (including PMRY), cases involving loan limit upto Rs. 25,000/-shall be disposed within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,00Q/-, within 8 to 9 weeks.

Request for excise duty reduction on tobacco products

1696. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various tobacco farmers unions pleaded for reduction of excise duty on their products;

(b) whether it is a fact that heavy excise duties are harming tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) what steps are proposed to make tobacco cultivation attractive, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from various associations, including tobacco farmer's associations, seeking reduction in exicse duty on tobacco products. Excise duty rates have been prescribed after taking into consideration all relevant factors including the interests of the tobacco farmers.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Vacant posts in nationalised banks/ insurance companies

1697. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of top ranking posts at present lying vacant in nationalised banks and the insurance companies indicating the date from which posts are lying vacant; and